

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MILAN 00862 091814Z

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 H-02 ISO-00 SSO-00 PASS-00 /003 W

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O R 091431Z APR 76

FM AMCONSUL MILAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4655

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS MILAN 0862

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC: (GRAY, PAUL MICHAEL)

SUBJECT: WELFARE OF PAUL MICHAEL GRAY

H PASS : DISTRICT OFFICE OF HONORABLE JOSEPH EARLY,
WORCESTER MASS., TEL: 617-752-6718, ATTENTION FRED RHODES

REF MR. RHODES CALL TO EMBASSY ROME

1. "CHRIST IS THE ANSWER" (CRISTO E' LA RISPOSTA) APPEARS TO BE A BONA FIDE RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION OF THE EVANGELICAL TYPE. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ORGANIZATION OPERATING HERE IN ITALY IS AFFILIATED AND/OR SUPPORTED BY A SIMILAR ORGANIZATION IN THE U.S. HERE IT IS COMPOSED MAINLY OF YOUNG PEOPLE FROM VARIOUS EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND INCLUDES A LARGE AMERICAN CONTINGENT. AS FAR AS WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE, SMALL ELEMENTS OF THE ORGANIZATION ARE FOUND IN VARIOUS ITALIAN CITIES WHILE THE MAIN PART OF THE GROUP TRAVELS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY ON EVANGELICAL TOURS WHICH ARE SIMILAR TO REVIVAL MEETINGS IN THE U.S.

2. THE YOUNG PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE GROUP WITH WHOM WE HAVE TALKED APPEAR TO BE EXTREMELY DEDICATED AND ARDENT BELIEVERS. THEY LIVE SIMPLY, EVIDENTLY SHARING MATERIAL GOODS IN A COMMUNAL MANNER. WE HAVE HAD NO COMPLAINTS FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES CONCERNING THEIR CONDUCT EXCEPT THAT THE POLICE ON ONE OCCASION, DURING THEIR REVIVAL MEETINGS HELD IN MILAN IN OCTOBER 1975, EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR THEIR SAFETY SINCE THEIR PREACHING WAS STIRRING UP UNREST AMONG SOME OF THE MORE UNSAVORY ELEMENTS LOCALLY AS THE FAVORITE TARGET OF THEIR EVANGELICAL MISSION

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PAGE 02 MILAN 00862 091814Z

WERE PROSTITUTES AND TRANSVESTITES.

3. WE HAVE HAD LITTLE CONTACT WITH SCOTT. HOWEVER, ON THE ONE
OCCASION WE REQUESTED HIS ASSISTANCE IN ASCERTAINING THE WHERE-
ABOUTS OF A MEMBER OF THE GROUP HE WAS HELPFUL AND UNDERSTANDING
OF THE PROBLEM INVOLVED. FINA

NOTE BY OC/T: PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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